

Claims:

1. A graphical user interface for a display of an electronic device and used for the collaboration of participants located within an area, the graphical user interface comprising:

5 an area representation generated on the display; and
 at least one participant representation generated on the display
 corresponding to a respective one of the participants;
 wherein the participant representation allows a viewer of the
 display to quickly identify the participants in the area.

10 2. The graphical user interface of Claim 1 wherein the area
representation is generated according to the physical characteristics of the area and
the participant representation is generated on the display at an approximate
location of the participant.

15 3. The graphical user interface of Claim 1 further comprising a data
representation generated on the display, the data representation allowing a viewer
to access information associated therewith.

 4. The graphical user interface of Claim 3 wherein the data
representation is configured to allow participants to share the information
associated therewith.

20 5. The graphical user interface of Claim 1 further comprising a
device representation generated on the display, the device representation allowing
a viewer to control the device associated therewith.

6. The graphical user interface of Claim 1 further comprising a shared area and a private area, the shared area being operative to provide information to all viewers of the graphical user interface and the private area being operative to provide information only to selected participants.

5 7. The graphical user interface of Claim 1 wherein the participant representation is an icon that corresponds to the participant.

8. The graphical user interface of Claim 1 wherein the electronic devices of the participants are in communication with one another and the graphical user interface is configured to share information between the devices.

10 9. The graphical user interface of Claim 8 wherein the graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between devices in wired communication with each other.

10. The graphical user interface of Claim 8 wherein the graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between devices in wireless communication with each other.

11. The graphical user interface of Claim 8 wherein the area representation and the participant representation are configured to be displayed on a device selected from the group consisting of:

20 a computer;
a personal digital assistant; and
a cell phone.

12. A method of providing collaborative information to participants of a meeting, each of the participants having an electronic device with a collaboration graphical user interface (GUI), the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) networking the electronic devices of the participants in order to share information;
- b) determining entity information for at least one participant; and
- c) displaying with the GUI the entity information on at least one electronic device.

10 13. The method of Claim 12 wherein step (a) comprises networking the devices with a wireless network.

 14. The method of Claim 12 wherein step (a) comprises networking the devices with a wired network.

15 15. The method of Claim 12 wherein the electronic device is selected from the group consisting of:

 a computer;

 a personal digital assistant; and

 a cell phone.

20 16. The method of Claim 12 wherein step (b) comprises determining entity information automatically from the electronic device of the participant.

 17. The method of Claim 12 wherein step (b) comprises determining entity information comprising biographical data about the participant.

18. The method of Claim 12 wherein step (b) comprises determining entity information regarding information to be shared with the participants.

19. The method of Claim 12 wherein step (c) further comprises displaying the entity information with the GUI on all of the devices connected in the network.

20. The method of Claim 19 wherein the GUI is divided into a shared area and a private area and step (c) comprises displaying the entity information in the shared area which is viewable by all the participants.

21. The method of Claim 19 wherein the GUI is divided into a shared area and a private area and step (c) comprises displaying the entity information in the private area which is accessible to only authorized participants.

22. A method of generating a collaborative graphical user interface on a display of an electronic device, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) determining entity information of participants located within an area;
- b) determining location information of the participants located within the area; and
- c) generating a representation for each of the respective participants on the display of the electronic device in their respective locations within the area.

23. The method of Claim 22 wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed automatically by the electronic device.

24. The method of Claim 22 wherein the electronic devices are in communication with one another and the method further comprises the step of sharing entity and location information between the electronic devices.

5 25. The method of Claim 24 further comprising the step of generating a document representation on the display corresponding to documents which can be shared between electronic devices.

26. The method of Claim 25 further comprising the step of generating a private area and a shared area on the display in order to control access to the information.